

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 14, 16, 19, and 21; claims 1, 13, and 18 have been canceled; and claims 22 and 23 have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-12, 14-17, and 19-23 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**2.) Allowable Subject Matter**

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 11 and 12. Claims 2-4, 5-7, 14-15, and 19-20 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 5, 14 and 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. The dependencies of other claims have been amended so that all claims depend from allowable claims. In particular:

The Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4, and new claims 22 and 23, depend from allowable claim 2. Therefore, the allowance of claims 3, 4, 22, and 23 is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have rewritten claim 5 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-10 depend from allowable claim 5. Therefore, the allowance of claims 6-10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 are allowed.

The Applicants have rewritten claim 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 13. Claim 13 has been canceled. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-17 depend from allowable claim 14. Therefore, the allowance of claims 15-17 is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have rewritten claim 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 18. Claim 18 has been canceled. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from allowable claim 19. Therefore, the allowance of claims 20 and 21 is respectfully requested.

### **3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8-10, 13, 16-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of the instant application in paragraph [0002-0004], hereinafter referred to as the APA, in view of Gupta, et al. (US 6,731,627).

The Applicants respectfully submit that the § 103 rejections are moot in view of the amendments into allowable form described above. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

### **4.) Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 2-12, 14-17, and 19-23.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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